

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 DAMASC 00585 190815Z

17

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 L-02 SCA-01 TRSE-00 COME-00

OES-03 INT-05 FEA-01 SAM-01 SP-02 AID-05 NSC-05

CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-01 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 FRB-03

INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 /081 W

----- 091580

R 190750Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2688

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE DAMASCUS 0585

BEIRUT FOR ECON/COMATT

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, SY, US

SUBJECT: CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS: SYRIAN NOTE RE EXXON

1. EMBASSY TRANSLATION OF ARABIC NOTE RECEIVED FROM SARG
FOREIGN MINISTRY DATED FEB. 12, 1975, RE EXXON CASE FOLLOWS:

"MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

CONSULAR DEPARTMENT

C 3 (14/4/1/1994)

FEBRUARY 12, 1975

THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRESENTS ITS COMPLIMENTS TO
THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND HAS THE HONOR
TO INFORM IT THAT ESSO STANDARD OWES THE DIRECTORATE OF CUSTOMS,
DAMASCUS, CUSTOMS VIOLATIONS FOR WHICH VERDICTS WERE ISSUED
ORDERING THE COMPANY TO PAY A TOTAL SUM OF 22,393,524 SYRIAN
POUNDS IN FEES AND FINES AND THAT THESE VERDICTS HAVE BECOME
FINAL BY THEIR CONFIRMATION BY THE COURT OF CASSATION.
CONSIDERING THAT THE COMPANY HAS EXPRESSED DESIRE THROUGH THE
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 DAMASC 00585 190815Z

EMBASSY TO REACH A SETTLEMENT OF THE LAWSUITS

CONSUMMATED AGAINST IT, AFTER ITS NAME BECAME EXXON, THE MINISTRY WILL APPRECIATE IT IF THE EMBASSY WOULD KINDLY ADVISE THE COMPANY TO SUBMIT ITS OWN OFFER FOR SETTLEMENT."

2. REQUEST EMBASSY BEIRUT PASS ABOVE TO BRYAN C. JONES, GEN. MGR., ESSO STANDARD (NEAR EAST), INC., ALONG WITH FOLLOWING COMMENT. AS JONES (AND DEPARTMENT) AWARE, IN OUR CLAIMS DISCUSSIONS WITH SARG, WE HAVE NOT TAKEN UP ANY SPECIFIC PRIVATE CLAIMS, BUT HAVE AGREED WITH SARG THAT USG WOULD PUBLISH NOTICE FOR PRIVATE CLAIMANTS TO FILE THEIR CLAIMS WITH USG (SUCH NOTICE HAS BEEN PUBLISHED). WE HAVE OBTAINED FROM SARG AN EXPRESSION OF WILLINGNESS TO COMMENCE NEGOTIATIONS ON PRIVATE CLAIMS AND TO SETTLE VALID CLAIMS. WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT PUT FORWARD OR DISCUSSED IN ANY WAY ANY "DESIRE" ON ESSO PART AS INDICATED IN SARG NOTE QUOTED ABOVE. WE HAVE CAREFULLY CONSULTED WITH JONES BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER INITIAL USG/SARG CLAIMS DISCUSSION ON NOV 20 AND AGREED WITH HIM THAT EMBASSY WOULD NOT MAKE ANY SPECIFIC REPRESENTATIONS RE ESSO'S CLAIM OR SARG'S CLAIM AGAINST ESSO. LAST CONTACT WE HAD WITH JONES WAS NOV 27 WHEN HE BRIEFED US ON HIS DISCUSSION WITH FINANCE MINISTER SHARIF ON THAT DATE.

3. FYI COMMENT: WE CAN ONLY ASSUME NOV 27 JONES/SHARIF MEETING AND OUR SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH SARG ON OUR OFFICIAL CLAIMS, HAS STIRRED DIRECTORATE OF CUSTOMS TO RAISE THROUGH FOREIGN MINISTRY ITS CLAIM AGAINST ESSO. WE NOTE AMOUNT CLAIMED OF OVER 22.3 MILLION POUNDS IS SOMEWHAT ABOVE AMOUNT OF APPROXIMATELY 21.5 MILLION LISTED IN ESSO BRIEFING PAPER DATED 13 AUGUST 1974. WE ARE ENCOURAGED, HOWEVER, THAT SARG NOTE ASKS ESSO "TO SUBMIT ITS OWN OFFER FOR SETTLEMENT" AND WE CONCLUDE THAT CONCERNED SARG OFFICIALS ARE READY TO BEGIN BARGAINING OVER THE TWO OPPOSING CLAIMS.

4. AS INDICATED DAMASCUS 264 AND BEIRUT 1259, POSSIBLE INTEREST OF EXXON IN PETROLEUM WORK IN SYRIA IS KNOWN TO HIGHEST LEVELS OF SARG, PARTICULARLY AFTER BRIEF EXCHANGE OF COMMENTS BETWEEN EXXON CHAIRMAN JAMIESON AND PRES. ASAD. ARRIVAL OF EXXON REPS IN SYRIAR,

AS PROMISED BY JAMIESON, COULD HAVE SALUTORY EFFECT ON SYRIAN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 DAMASC 00585 190815Z

CUSTOMS CLAIM AND EXXON NEGOTIATIONS FOR NATIONALIZATION COMPENSATION. END FYI.
MURPHY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CLAIMS, NEGOTIATIONS, DEBT REPAYMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: WorrelSW
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC00585
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750058-0915
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750233/aaaabdcf.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: WorrelSW
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2003 by WorrelSW>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CLAIMS NEGOTIATIONS: SYRIAN NOTE RE EXXON
TAGS: EFIN, SY, US, ESSO
To: STATE BEIRUT
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006